

THE PLANET

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JOHN MITCHELL, JR., - EDITOR

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Entered in the Post-Office at Richmond, Va., as second class matter.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1897.

There are troublous times for us as a people, but we can live through them.

We must not waver in our determination to win. Our people are on trial and the vicious elements amongst us should be sent to the rear.

GREENE is paying for her folly and may yet be forced to look to the Powers to prevent her being wiped off the map.

The Metropolitan Monthly of Austin, Texas is a most creditable publication and should be supported. It is devoted to the interests of the A. M. E. Church.

The Senate edition of the Dingley Tariff Bill is a unique document, and it will be a wonderful achievement when the two branches of the government reach an agreement as to its provisions.

We received an invitation to the first annual soiree of the La France Social Club, May 7th, at Samaritan's Hall, Miss K. ELIZABETH CARTER, president.

We have received from Hon. JOHN E. MANNING, Superintendent of Public Instruction the programme of the Virginia Superintendent's Conference held Monday, May 3, 1897, in the Hall of the House of Delegates.

We have received the 77th annual catalogue of Colgate University at Hamilton, New York, GEORGE WILLIAM SMITH, L. L. D. It discloses the fact that the session has been a most prosperous one, and the standard of the institution has been successfully maintained.

The evident intention of the Bayas leaders to reaffirm their allegiance to the Chicago Free Silver Platform by having a resolution to that effect passed in the state convention has created consternation in the ranks of the gold-wing of that party.

If this course is pursued, it will cause them to either nominate a ticket of their own or remain inactive during the contest.

Mr. CLEVELAND's speech in New York no doubt had much to do with this, and Mr. BRYAN's agitation of the question tends to make his followers in this state less inclined to yield. We shall see what will result.

"The Richmond Blues, a crack military company of the Old Dominion decided to stay away from New York because among the invited guests a colored company of Richmond soldiers had promised to go. The colored company is older than the Richmond Blues and coming North would be the ranking company from the state capital. That was more than the Richmond Blues could stand so they decided to stay at home. But they were never missed."—Chicago Conservator.

Our esteemed contemporary is in error. The Richmond Blues went to New York and marched in the line with the colored troops of the Old Dominion. Virginia is proud of her citizen soldiery regardless of race, color or previous condition.

The lynching of Joseph McCoy at Alexandria, Va., April 23 was one of the most dastardly crimes in the history of this state, and could not have taken place without the connivance of those sworn to protect otherwise.

Mayor THOMSON with hand uplifted swore to recognize the civil and political equality of all men before the law and to see to it that the laws of the commonwealth of Virginia and those of the United States are faithfully executed. And yet there has been no denial of the allegation that he deliberately released the lynchers at the demand of the mob.

Is the Mayor guilty of perjury? Did he not swear to do the very thing which he boldly declares he did not do?

What has Commonwealth's Attorney JOHNSON done about it? Where is Sheriff PALMER? What has become of the corporation judge. These are the questions which the people are pondering. It is a sad day for any community, when oaths are taken only to be

broken, and officials of the law become sponsors for crime as heinous as that with which the prisoner stood charged.

The Richmond, Va., Dispatch continues to suffer from chronic attacks of Negro-phobia. From its position in favor of a constitutional convention it ungrudgingly retreats, and assigns as its reason that a Negro's vote will have as much weight as that of a white man's.

It is a pity that no sentiment exists in this country for the cure of such ailments. This journal and its management have our sympathy.

JUDGE INGRAM'S ACTIONS.

The action of Judge J. H. INGRAM in setting aside the verdict of the jury in the case of WESLEY MAYO will merit the approval of justice-loving people everywhere. There never was enough suspicion in the case to warrant even an arrest, much less a conviction, and the absurdity of the charge was so manifest that we wondered why the plaintiff was not "laughed out of court."

We should like to know the history that LOWRICE family, if it ever had a history.

Judge INGRAM's review of the case is convincing and while disclaiming any such intention places the jury in even a more miserable plight than did our remarks upon the same subject.

The public will wonder how a set of twelve men could be secured in any community who would swear to render a verdict in accordance with the law and the evidence and then permit the sentiment of the prejudiced to so influence them as to send a Negro to the penitentiary for ten years, simply because he is Negro.

The names of that jury will constitute a monument to the injustice of their verdict, and much to the credit of the most remarkable body of men ever called into a court-room.

But WESLEY MAYO was either innocent or guilty. He deserves either freedom or punishment, and his confinement in jail under a bond requirement of one thousand dollars, in our judgment is as cruel as it is unnecessary.

He has been forced to employ counsel. He has been confined in jail. He has been subjected to all of the horrors which a threatened lynching convey. He has seen his wife and little ones want for bread. He has been sick, as it was established in court that he is not a well man. He has been labelled as a deperate character, when he is not. He has had his opportunities for work disappear, and he is now laboring under the ignominy of a conviction, which a courageous judge has set aside. What more punishment would you visit upon WESLEY MAYO?

Shall the decree of the prejudiced of the stripe of the men who obstinately that jury prevail? Shall Virginia be further disgraced and her laws made ridiculous by his further incarceration within the walls of a prison?

We hope not. Judge INGRAM, this man's family need his aid and support. This man never intended to commit the crime alleged against him. White citizens have applauded you in your attempt to fearlessly discharge your duty. Colored men have approved your courage in carrying out the mandates of the law as placed before you. You need the community in which you live will have any trouble with WESLEY MAYO.

But, we read the matter here. Why should we plead the cause of the oppressed in Manchester? Messrs. WISE and GANNETT are the able counsel. Why should we ask for the release of a man who has proven his innocence. Why should we call attention to the principles of eternal justice or remind the officials of the solemnity of the tomb? They have their Bibles and their ministers of the gospel, and their houses of worship, and the lessons of every day life.

They know that the colored man has a soul, like unto theirs and that the cries of the children for bread awaken a reverberation within the confines of May's lonely cell.

The scales will fall from their eyes, an awakening will come and patriotic white citizens will take up and advocate our cause, when all is dark and hopeless and the end appears to be near.

The Manchester prison is no place for WESLEY MAYO. One thousand dollars should mean a bar to his liberty. What will be done in the premises?

Judge INGRAM has made a long stride in the direction of equity. A few steps remain between his present stand and complete realization of Mayo's hope. What will the answer be? Liberty or slavery? Freedom or confinement? Judge INGRAM is the master of the situation.

Shall Mayo go free or shall he languish a dreary year within the gloomy confines of the prison?

Editor Waldron's Commendation.

(Jacksonville, Fla. Evangelist.)

The Richmond Planet is determined to ehove and finally sweep from the lead the terrible crime of lynching. The paper is fearless and shrewd man; he possesses the virtue of "keeping his word," and is constant in unflinching denunciation of lynching. He accomplishes anything, Editor Mitchell is bound to succeed. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. The condemnation of wrong will destroy it in the end. We commend Editor Mitchell for his noble work along this line; the press of the entire country must lift up its voice against the terrible crime of lynching or this nation is ruined.

FROM CHURCH VIEW.

Religious Notes—Re-organization of Sunday School Officers.

CHURCH VIEW, Va., May 3, '97.

Mr. Editor,

We are glad of the opportunity to write a little more news of our vicinity in the Planet, and sincerely hope there will be greater demand for the paper in the near future; as it is one that should be in every family.

On the 3rd Sunday ult., the vacant pulpit of the Antioch Baptist Church, Abbeville, Va., was occupied by Rev. Dennis Fields, who preached two able sermons to a large congregation. Collection \$38.00.

On the same Sunday, Rev. N. A. Wiggins, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Abbeville, Va., was occupied by Rev. Dennis Fields, who preached two able sermons to a large congregation. Collection \$38.00.

The Oyster season closed on the 25th ult., and it is rather hard to find mourners on all of our corners, but still they have a good chance to turn their attention to farming, as that will pay them better in the end.

On the 24th ult., Rev. and Mrs. C. R. Towles was called to the death-bed of Rev. Mrs. Dennis Fields. She departed this life on the 23rd in the full triumph of faith.

On the 4th Sunday in April, Rev. G. W. Wood occupied the vacant pulpit

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A Safe and Sure Remedy for every case and every kind of Sore Throat.

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This is a true statement and it can't be made too strong of its efficacy.

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Drums were beating the march, bands were playing stirring quicksteeps, the distant booming of cannon on Warren's front showed that he and the enemy were still exchanging compliments, and mingled with these sounds were the cries of the soldiers, the shouting of the troops, the rumbling of wheels and the shrieks of steam whistles. The bright sun, shining through a clear sky upon the scene, cast its sheen upon the water, was reflected from the polished gun barrels and glittering cannon, and brought out with increased brilliancy the gay colors of the waving banners. The calmly flowing river reflected the blue of the heavens and mirrored on its surface the beauties of nature that bordered it. The rich grain was standing high in the surrounding fields. The harvest was almost ripe, but the harvesters had fled. The arts of civilization had receded before the science of destruction, and in looking from the growing crops to the marching columns the gentle smile of peace contrasted strangely with the savage frown of war.

It was a matchless pageant that could not fail to inspire all beholders with the grandeur of achievement and the majesty of military power. The man whose genius had conceived and whose skill had executed this masterly movement stood watching the spectacle in profound silence. Whether his mind was occupied with the contemplation of its magnitude and success or was busied with maturing plans for the future no one can tell. After a time he broke from his reverie, mounted his horse and gave orders to have headquarters hurried across to the south bank of the river.

Washington Well Fortified.

In view of the fact that the national capital was once taken and burned by a foreign enemy it is reassuring to know that a calamity so humiliating is not likely to occur again, even in case of sudden war.

Washington is the best defended city in the country. A hostile fleet could not now ascend the Potomac, as was done in 1844, when President Madison and his wife were compelled to make a hurried escape across the Potomac to avoid capture by the British.

For military and prudential reasons little has been allowed to be known concerning the new works and the heavy ordnance recently installed below the city, but for some years engineers have been busy at the river front, and for fear of this city being in position there, and a system of torpedo defenses has been perfected which would render the approach of an enemy's warship within 15 miles of the city practically impossible.

The defensive works are located at the "elbow," or turn, of the Potomac where old Forts Washington and Sheridan stood, and where an old point of channel for vessels of deep draft is but 800 yards wide.

The guns are protected on the water side by emplacement walls of stone and concrete 70 feet thick, and on the land side by redoubts for infantry.

The rapidly increasing wealth and importance of Washington, the grand new public buildings and the vast sums of money and bulion in the treasury render these protective and defensive measures a matter of national importance and necessity.—Youth's Companion.

Goldfish Prices.

Ordinary goldfish for aquariums can be bought as low as 10 cents each. From that the price runs up very high. As much as \$50 has been paid for a well bred telescope fish. This fish grows to be four or five inches in length. It comes from China and Japan and takes its name from its eyes, which stand out from its head like little telescopes. Fifty dollars is an unusual price to pay for a goldfish, but prices ranging from 50 cents to \$15 or more are not unusual. The higher prices are paid for beautiful Japanese goldfish with fringed and lace-like tails.—New York Sun.

A Gallery Indowment.

"I always like to see that senator get up to make a speech," said the drowsy looking man.

"He isn't very interesting."

"No. When he is on his feet I'm always sure that my nap will not be disturbed by any outburst of applause."—Washington Star.

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Washington Well Fortified.

In view of the fact that the national capital was once taken and burned by a foreign enemy it is reassuring to know that a calamity so humiliating is not likely to occur again, even in case of sudden war.

Washington is the best defended city in the country. A hostile fleet could not now ascend the Potomac, as was done in 1844, when President Madison and his wife were compelled to make a hurried escape across the Potomac to avoid capture by the British.

For military and prudential reasons little has been allowed to be known concerning the new works and the heavy ordnance recently installed below the city, but for some years engineers have been busy at the river front, and for fear of this city being in position there, and a system of torpedo defenses has been perfected which would render the approach of an enemy's warship within 15 miles of the city practically impossible.

The defensive works are located at the "elbow," or turn, of the Potomac where old Forts Washington and Sheridan stood, and where an old point of channel for vessels of deep draft is but 800 yards wide.

The guns are protected on the water side by emplacement walls of stone and concrete 70 feet thick, and on the land side by redoubts for infantry.

The rapidly increasing wealth and importance of Washington, the grand new public buildings and the vast sums of money and bulion in the treasury render these protective and defensive measures a matter of national importance and necessity.—Youth's Companion.

Goldfish Prices.

Ordinary goldfish for aquariums can be bought as low as 10 cents each. From that the price runs up very high. As much as \$50 has been paid for a well bred telescope fish. This fish grows to be four or five inches in length. It comes from China and Japan and takes its name from its eyes, which stand out from its head like little telescopes. Fifty dollars is an unusual price to pay for a goldfish, but prices ranging from 50 cents to \$15 or more are not unusual. The higher prices are paid for beautiful Japanese goldfish with fringed and lace-like tails.—New York Sun.

A Gallery Indowment.

"I always like to see that senator get up to make a speech," said the drowsy looking man.

"He isn't very interesting."

"No. When he is on his feet I'm always sure that my nap will not be disturbed by any outburst of applause."—Washington Star.

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at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Rev. O. R. Towles' stead. At 11:30, Rev. Wood presided over the service. By J. H. Easton and R. V. Jones, licentiate. Rev. Wood preached from Psalms 101:1; subject, "Thou wilt show me the path of life." The sermon was well marked, after which a good collection was lifted for the church.

On the 30th ult., Rev. and Mrs. Powell of Richmond, passed through our village en route to see the Reverend's sick mother. He and his wife were looking splendid.

Revs. A. Wiggins and W. E. Thompson, B. D. will leave via York River R. R. on the 9th inst. to attend the Baptist State Convention at Salem, Va. Wish them God speed.

We are glad to note at this writing that little Claudius G. Foster, beloved infant of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Foster, who has been on the sick list for the past four weeks is rapidly improving. At the last Sunday services were held at Shiloh Baptist Church, which was largely attended. They also turned out in groups at the Mt. Zion Church, the purpose of re-organizing officers for the present year, 1897; and the election resulted as follows: Superintendent, H. M. CHAMBERLAIN; Assistant Superintendent, C. H. FRIEZE; Secretary, M. S. M. C. Lewis; Treasurer, Walker Key; Librarian, R. V. Jones; and Steward, J. H. Easton. They then thronged to the White Oak Sunday School House to elect their officers for that Sunday School for this year, and the election resulted as follows: Superintendent, W. L. Foster; Assistant Superintendent, W. L. Foster; Secretary, M. S. M. C. Lewis; Treasurer, W. L. Foster; Librarian, H. R. Foster; Sexton, Monroe Ferguson. Together we stand, divided we fall; so let us, as true Christians, pray for more unity.

On the 21st and 22nd of April, the heavy frost damaged some of our early farmers' vegetables considerably. Some of our truckers for the past two weeks have had long faces, complaining about it not raining; so on Saturday the 1st, the Lord smiled on us by sending us a most lovely rain. Let us always consider one thing and that is the Great God of high heavens knows better when we stand in need of rain than we do ourselves; so stop complaining and do more praying. Pay all of your dues and receive honors from all you deal with.

Yours for the paper, W. L. F.

PASSAGE OF THE JAMES.

The brilliant Military Spectacle Presented by the Advance on Petersburg.

In The Century General Horace Porter writes of "Grant's Dash For Petersburg" in his series of papers on "Campaigning With Grant." Of the passage of the James, General Porter says: "As the general in chief stood upon the bluff on the north bank of the river on the morning of June 15, watching with unusual interest the busy scene spread out before him, he presented a sight which had never been equaled even in his extended experience in all the varied phases of warfare. His clear head had been thrown aside, his hands were clasped behind him, and he seemed lost in the contemplation of the spectacle. The great bridge was the scene of a continuous movement of infantry columns, batteries of artillery and wagon trains. The approaches to the river on both banks were covered with masses of troops moving briskly to their positions or waiting patiently their turn to cross. At the two improvised ferries steamboats were gliding back and forth with the regularity of weavers' shuttles. A fleet of transports covered the surface of the water below the bridge, and gunboats floated lazily upon the stream, guarding the river above.

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